15th March 1955]

Mr. SPEAKER :—" Questions Nos. 1355 and 1356 may be taken up together."

Lignite Mines, Neyveli.

* 1355 *Q.*—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether an Eight-man Committee has been appointed for Neyveli Lignite Mines; and

(*b*) if so, who the members are and the functions of the Committee?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) A statement [a] is placed on the table of the House."

* 1356 *Q.*—Sri M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any conference of representatives of the Union Government and the State Government was held recently regarding Neyveli Lignite Project;

(*b*) if so, the scheme proposed by this Conference;

(*c*) whether the schemes have been approved by this Government; and

(*d*) when they will be given effect to?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) *to* (*d*) No scheme for the exploitation and utilization of lignite was decided upon at that conference. It was decided that further drilling and pumping tests should be carried out and that an integrated scheme drawn up after the results of the tests are available. Arrangements are being made for the conduct of the tests."

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—" May I know whether Sri Ghosh is one among the technical assistants appointed by this Committee and whether he continues in his appointment? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Technical assistance has been sought and is being given by a British firm, namely Powell Duffryn Technical Services. Mr. Ghosh does not belong to that firm."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" As this is an important question which has been figuring very often in this House, will the Government be pleased to issue a white paper on this subject containing all the relevant information? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" After the investigations are completed and the Project report is prepared by the co-ordinating committee, the Government may consider the issuing of a white paper."

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[a] Printed as Appendix on page 789 infra.